

—as in *Hesperornis*,—and finally the humerus itself may be wanting, as in *Dinornis giganteus*, and we have the extreme of degeneration in an absolutely wingless bird.

## MEASUREMENTS.

	Leg.	Wing.	Humerus.	Sternum.	
				Length.	Depth.
<i>Pipilo consobrinus</i>	122	90—	30—	23+	9
“ <i>maculatus</i>	120	90	30	30	9
“ <i>erythrophthalmus</i>	122	91	30	33	11
<i>Junco insularis</i>	112	88	29	22	8
“ <i>hyemalis</i>	113	97	30	30	10
<i>Carpodacus amplus</i>	100	99	29—	34	12
“ <i>cassini</i>	99	101	29	36	12
“ <i>frontalis</i>	94	96	28	36	12
<i>Salpinctes gadalupensis</i>	120	99	30—	35+	6.5
“ <i>obsoletus</i>	121	85	28	22	6

## RECENT LITERATURE.

The Ornithology of ‘The Century Dictionary.’\*—‘The Century Dictionary’ is beyond doubt *the* literary monument of the age. It is the result of seven years of arduous and unremitting work on the part of some forty experts, consisting of eminent specialists in every department of human knowledge. “The plan of ‘The Century Dictionary’ includes three things: the construction of a general dictionary of the English language which shall be serviceable for every literary and practical use; a more complete collection of the technical terms of the various sciences, arts, trades, and professions than has yet been attempted; and the addition to the definitions proper of such related encyclopedic matter, with pictorial illustrations, as shall constitute a convenient book of general reference.” The result is a collection of about 225,000 words with their definitions and etymologies. Technical terms are a conspicuous feature, many thousands having been gathered which have never before appeared in any general dictionary, or even in special glossaries. These include not only names of organs, structures, functions, and processes, but a large proportion of

\*The | Century Dictionary | An Encyclopedic Lexicon | of the English Language | Prepared under the Superintendence of | William Dwight Whitney, Ph. D., L. L. D. | Professor of Comparative Philology and Sanskrit | in Yale University | In Six Volumes. | Volume I [IV] | [Vignette] Published by | The Century Company. | New York. [1889-90.]

the systematic names of biology. "To the biological sciences a degree of prominence has been given corresponding to the remarkable recent increase in their vocabulary. During the last quarter of a century there has been an extensive reorganization and variation of the former systems of classification, from which have come thousands of new names of genera, families, etc.: and also a profound modification of biological conceptions, which has led both to new definitions of old words and to the coinage of many new words. All these terms that are English in form, and for any reason worthy of record, have been included, and also as many of the New Latin names of classificatory groups as are essential to a serviceable presentation of zoölogy and botany. The selection of the New Latin names in zoölogy has been liberal as regards the higher groups, or families, orders, etc., whether now current or merely forming a part of the history of the science; but of generic names only a relatively small number have been entered. Probably about 100,000 names of zoölogical genera exist, 60,000 at least having a definite scientific standing; but the whole of them cannot, of course, be admitted into any dictionary. The general rule adopted for the inclusion of such names is to admit those on which are founded the names of higher groups, especially of families, or which are important for some other special reason, or popular use, an established position in works of reference, the existence of species which have popular English names, etc."

The foregoing extracts from the preface indicate the scope and character of treatment of the ornithological names and subjects, in common with those of biology in general. The biological collaborators selected at once inspire confidence in the work, a critical inspection of which cannot fail to excite admiration.

We further learn from the preface that "The definitions of that part of general biological science which in any way relates to animal life or structure, including systematic zoölogy, have been written by Dr. Elliott Coues, who has been assisted in ichthyology and conchology by Prof. Theodore N. Gill, in entomology by Mr. Leland O. Howard and Mr. Herbert L. Smith, and in human anatomy by Prof. James K. Thatcher. Special aid has also been received from other naturalists, particularly from Prof. Charles V. Riley, who has furnished a number of definitions accompanying a valuable series of entomological cuts obtained from him." The botanical collaborators are Dr. Sereno Watson and Mr. Arthur B. Seymour (from A through G), and Dr. Lester F. Ward and Prof. Frank H. Knowlton (from G to Z). The pictorial illustrations are generally of a high grade, and are very largely made especially for the work.\*

Four volumes of 'The Century Dictionary' have already appeared, the first three bearing date 1889, and the fourth 1890. The remaining two are announced to appear shortly. They are large quarto in size (type bed  $7\frac{3}{4} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$  inches), and average over 1200 pages each. The ornithological

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\* Many of the illustrations of birds and mammals have been drawn by Mr. Ernest E. Thompson, from specimens furnished by the American Museum of Natural History.

matter, both as regards text and cuts, forms a conspicuous feature of the work, which is thus practically an encyclopedia of ornithology. For those who know Dr. Coues's ability at giving the gist of a bird's history in a few happily worded sentences, it is unnecessary to say that a vast amount of information is compressed into the space of a few lines. To cite a few illustrations: About 700 words are devoted to the word Grouse and two cuts, one representing the Scotch Ptarmigan, the other the Dusky Grouse of western North America. The history and etymology of the word occupies about 100 words, followed by a definition of the characters of the sub-family Tetraoninae, with an enumeration of most of the species, under both their English and Latin names, with the principal synonyms of the former. In addition to this about 100 words are given to *Bonasa*, with a cut of our Ruffed Grouse; about the same to *Canace*, with a cut of the Canada Grouse; about 150 words are given to *Centrocercus*, with a cut of the Sage-Cook; under *Dendragapus*, this term is defined and a cross reference made to *Canace*; Ptarmigan receives about 200 words, with a cut of the Rock Ptarmigan, while nearly as much more is given under *Lagopus* with a cross reference to Ptarmigan; and so on for the other generic groups of the Tetraoninae. This in fact may be taken as a fair illustration of the scope and method of treatment of ornithological subjects, most of the higher groups, including all of the more prominent genera, receiving from 50 to 200 words each, with generally a cut illustrative of some typical species of the group.

The amount of toil and tact involved in such an undertaking, it is easy to see, is almost beyond estimate, while the utility of such work cannot readily be over-appreciated. That in all parts it is equally good, or wholly beyond criticism, is not to be expected, but a careful examination of the work leaves us with the impression that an endless amount of labor and care has been expended, greatly to the advantage of not only the layman but to the trained specialist, particularly in fields outside of his own province. As a work of reference 'The Century Dictionary' must for a long time easily lead all competitors, it standing quite alone as regards scope, completeness, and fullness of treatment. — J. A. A.

**Chapman on a Collection of Birds from British Columbia.\*** — The collection, of about a thousand specimens, on which this important paper is based, was made by Mr. Clark P. Streator between April 21 and Nov. 15, 1889, at several places in British Columbia and Washington. From June 16 to Sept. 3 he was in the comparatively dry country east of the Coast Range; the rest of the time he spent on or near the coast.

The paper opens with a brief description of the localities visited by Mr. Streator, together with a statement of the dates of his stay at each place, and then passes on to a discussion of the climatic regions in which they

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\* On a Collection of Birds made by Mr. Clark P. Streator in British Columbia, with Field Notes by the Collector. By Frank M. Chapman. — Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, Vol. III, No. 1, Article VII. Author's edition issued Oct. 8, 1890.